

Italy's cabinet crisis solved

ROME, March 8 (Agencies) — An agreement for the formation of a new government by Premier Giulio Andreotti was officially concluded here today. Mr. Andreotti, seeking to form a cabinet after 52 days without one, held a political summit today to reach an arrangement that would increase communist influence in the Italian government. He met with leaders of five parties, including the communists. The new cabinet will be Italy's 36th since World War II.

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Arafat talks to Palestinians at a Moscow university

MOSCOW, March 8 (R). — Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, today addressed a meeting of some 300 Palestinians at a Moscow university. A Palestinian spokesman said there were still no definite plans for Mr. Arafat, who arrived in Moscow on Monday, to meet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko or other top Soviet officials. Earlier a senior PLO official was quoted by the Soviet news agency TASS as saying Mr. Arafat's visit to Moscow would help strengthen the "front of steadfastness and rejection", formed to oppose Egypt's policy of direct negotiations with Israel.

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Kirchschläger flies home

AMMAN, March 8 (Agencies). — President Kirchschläger of Austria flew home today after a four-day visit here during which he held political and economic talks with His Majesty King Hussein.

Officials said Jordan and Austria will at once take steps toward enlarging the volume of their trade exchange. Jordan's imports from Austria amount to \$9 million a year, and its exports \$7 million.

Atherton confers with Prince Saud in Geneva

GENEVA, March 8 (R). — U.S. special envoy Alfred Atherton began talks on the Middle East with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal here tonight, a U.S. spokesman said.

Mr. Atherton arrived from Israel earlier in the day following a two-week Middle East tour.

Speaking to reporters in Tel Aviv before boarding a special U.S. plane, after his latest round of shuttle diplomacy, Mr. Atherton said he had managed to bring Egypt and Israel closer on a declaration of Middle East peace principles.

"I can't say that I'm leaving the area absolutely empty handed. The differences still persist, but I think we have closed the gap to some extent, concerning the declaration of principles," the assistant secretary of state said.

From Geneva Mr. Atherton will fly to Washington to help prepare for the visit there next week of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

Assad: Palestinian homeland comes before Golan Heights

DAMASCUS, March 8 (R). — Syrian President Hafez Assad said today the establishment of an independent Palestinian homeland was the top priority in the Middle East conflict.

In a major policy speech to the People's Council (parliament), he said that Palestinian rights were even more important than the recovery of Syrian territory occupied by Israel in the 1967 war.

President Assad said Syria would strongly resist trends towards the surrender of the Arab cause, build up its armed forces and increase cooperation with the Soviet Union and its allies.

The Syrian leader was speaking after being sworn in for a second seven-year term of office. He won 98.6 per cent of the votes in a referendum a month ago.

President Assad told parliament: "We shall continue to assert that the rights of the Palestinian people, to their territory and homeland occupy the first place... We affirm anew today that the right of the Palestinian people come first and our occupied land in the Golan second."

President Assad made no direct reference to President Anwar Sadat, but made it clear he was still firmly opposed to the Egyptian leader's peace initiative with Israel.

On foreign policy, President Assad said: "We shall strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist states..."

He did not elaborate, but observers noted that Soviet leaders pledged to increase financial and military aid to Syria when President Assad visited Moscow last month.

"Our armed forces have become a power to be greatly reckoned with," he said.

Syria's ruling Baath Party last night attacked President Sadat's peace initiative and called for Arab solidarity to face what it called the Arab nation's most critical period.

The party's pan-Arab leadership issued the statement on the eve of the 15th anniversary of the revolution which brought the Baath Party to power in Syria.

Syrian, Algerian, and Palestinian delegations meanwhile met in Damascus to discuss practical steps to unify their efforts to achieve a settlement in the Middle East, official Syrian sources said.

President Kirchschläger described his talks here as "extremely friendly." In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, he said there had been "full and real frankness," adding that his contacts with King Hussein had helped "build a bridge of common understanding."

Asked whether Austria was considering establishing an embassy in Amman, where it is now represented by a non-resident ambassador, the Austrian president replied:

"Sure, this question will be reconsidered again. I think the main thing in the relation between our two countries is not the existence of a resident ambassador, it is the goodwill of two peoples and a common understanding among the leading personalities in the government and their determination to cooperate to the fullest extent possible."

President Kirchschläger said in reply to a question that the much sought after declaration of principles for Middle East peace would be useful only if they avoided ambiguity and set definite time limits for steps leading to a settlement.

Asked to comment about the fact that the Soviet Union has stayed out of the current negotiations between Egypt and Israel, he told JNA: "I am convinced that a peaceful settlement without the United States or the Soviet Union will not be a lasting peace. It is impossible in the world of today to make arrangements of such importance by excluding one or another power."

The president and Mrs. Kirchschläger were seen off at Amman airport by the King, His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, cabinet ministers and high ranking army and airforce officers.

Weizman meets U.S. military officials

WASHINGTON, March 8 (AP). — Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman went into day-long meetings with top U.S. military officials today to press for Israel's reported \$13.5 billion in requests for arms over the next nine years.

Mr. Weizman received military honours in the snow in front of the Pentagon before joining Defence Secretary Harold Brown for discussions on the long-range Israeli arms package first submitted last October.

The proposal reportedly would increase U.S. military credits to Israel from the current level of about \$1 billion a year to \$1.5 billion a year.

It would give the Israelis a wide range of advanced weapons and, in their view, assure them military strength enough to secure them against combined Arab armies and air forces.

The Pentagon arranged a series of conferences for Mr. Weizman and his top aides, including meetings with the joint chiefs of staff and a working dinner tonight while Israel's requests were being examined line by line at the sessions.

No decisions, if any, were expected to be announced after the meetings.

Mr. Weizman, the winner in an Israeli cabinet dispute over settlements in occupied territory and a former air force chief, brought with him a shopping list stretching from tanks, mobile artillery and ammunition to hydrofoils for Israel's navy.

The weapons are all part of a blueprint for overhauling Israel's armed forces for the next decade.

The defence minister opened his four-day visit Tuesday on a conciliatory note, announcing that work on the Israeli settlements in occupied territories would be halted.

The "standstill," as Mr. Weizman called it, will last at least through the visit here next week of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Begin wins Knesset endorsement for his view of Resolution 242

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 8 (R). — Prime Minister Menachem Begin stuck to his hardline view of the shape of a Middle East peace settlement today, despite being attacked in the Knesset. Former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, a leader of the Labour opposition, said he saw grave dangers for Israel in Mr. Begin's policies.

Allon protests

Mr. Allon said: "The attempt of the Begin government to determine that this resolution does not apply to the Jordanian front is peculiar and worrying. The hard-line positions of the government, which excludes the possibility of foreign sovereignty and rule over the West Bank, bear grave dangers to Israel."

"The world will not agree with Israeli rule over 1,000,000 Palestinian Arabs in the occupied territories," Mr. Allon said.

Gush Emunim scoffs at ban on settlement

Members of the ultra-nationalistic Gush Emunim movement demonstrated outside Mr. Begin's office in protest at the decision to freeze new Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territories.

Knesset member Gula Cohen, a rightwing member of Mr. Begin's Herut party, scoffed at the idea of suspending settlement activities until after Mr. Begin's U.S. visit. "Settlement in Israel began over 80 years ago and it will go on after Begin's visit to Washington," Mrs. Cohen said. "There are some things you cannot stop even for one minute -- if you stop for one minute you're dead. To settle is for us like breathing."

Mr. Begin has admitted in recent weeks that there were "disagreements" about the settlement issue within the cabinet, but he pledged to "set things straight" on his return from Washington.

Mr. Begin was reported to have met Likud number-two, Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich, who heads the Liberal faction.

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In a communique released from Jerusalem, Mr. Weizman expressed regret that an "exchange of views on such a delicate topic had been published in the press out of context, and partially distorted."

He was referring to reports that he had threatened to resign if new settlements were allowed to go ahead despite his explicit order, issued before his departure for talks in the U.S., that all work be halted.

After speaking to Prime Minister Menachem Begin by telephone, Mr. Weizman yesterday confirmed a "total stop" on all settlements for the next two to three weeks, until Mr. Begin completed his forthcoming visit to the United States.

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World News Roundup

West Bank notables receive death threats

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 8 (R). — Several notables in the occupied West Bank have received letters from an unknown guerrilla organisation threatening to kill them if they cooperated with the Israeli authorities, Arab sources said here today. The letters were sent from post offices inside the West Bank.

Two killed in Beirut bomb blast

BEIRUT, March 8 (R). — Two people were killed and four wounded when a grenade exploded in predominantly Muslim west Beirut last night police sources said. They corrected their initial reports that four people had been killed.

West Bank delegation in Algeria

ALGIERS, March 8 (R). — Algerian President Houari Boumedienne yesterday received a delegation from the occupied West Bank, led by the Mayor of Ramallah, Karim Khalaf, the Algeria Presse Service news agency reported.

PLO to open office in Addis Ababa

NAIROBI, March 8 (R). — The Palestine Liberation Organisation is to open an office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Radio monitored here said today. The decision follows a five-day visit to Ethiopia by a high level PLO delegation at the request of the ruling provisional military administrative council or Dergue, the radio said.

Nimeiri planning Arab summit in Khartoum

BEIRUT, March 8 (R). — Sudan's President Jaafar Nimeiri said in an interview here today he was trying to convene an Arab summit in Khartoum aimed at re-establishing Arab solidarity. He told the weekly magazine As Sayyad that he wanted both Syrian President Hafez Assad and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt to attend the summit.

Anti-Arafat leader wounded in ambush

BEIRUT, Lebanon March 8 (Agencies) — Informed sources said today a dissident commander, Abu Sayed, accused of trying to overthrow Palestinian guerrilla leader Yasser Arafat was wounded in a machinegun and grenade ambush in eastern Lebanon.

A Syrian soldier from an Arab league peace-keeping army was also wounded in the ambush on a snow-covered stretch of the Beirut-Damascus highway Tuesday night, the sources added.

Abu Sayed is the code name of Col. Ali Salem Ahmad. He has issued statements in the name of a dissident group of Fatah, the main commando movement, critical of commando chief Yasser Arafat.

Palestinian sources said they had no information on the ambush.

Newspapers said the unidentified assailants fired from another car. Abu Sayed's followers accused Mr. Arafat's secret service of staging the ambush and vowed revenge within 24 hours.

Informants said rival guerrilla factions put their forces on alert in Lebanon's eastern province of Beqa'. One report said squads from Abu Sayed's faction sped to Beirut in jeeps.

Abu Sayed declared his breakaway movement which he called "Al Fateh Corrective Movement" after escaping from a guerrilla jail in Beirut to hijack a Kuwaiti airliner in a 44-hour drama last July that ended when he surrendered to Syrian authorities in Damascus.

The rightist "Voice of Lebanon" radio station said the head of Mr. Arafat's Al Fateh secret service, Abu Hol, personally staged the ambush then reported to Beirut. Abu Hol has reportedly received several threats of assassination from Abu Sayed.

St. John Ophthalmic Hospital is in dire straits

Financial problems may force renowned eye hospital in Jerusalem to close its doors this year

By Ian Kellas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 8. — A renowned hospital in Jerusalem will have to close at the end of this year unless Arab governments can be persuaded to save it from bankruptcy.

The St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem needs to raise a capital sum of £5 million if it is to have a viable future, chief fund-raiser Sir Gawain Bell told the Jordan Times today.

The 100-year-old hospital, dealing with 35,000 patients, and undertakes over 5,000 major operations every year. It is entirely staffed and run by Arabs for the benefit of Arab patients. It is a training hospital and is noted for its research in the field of eye medicine and in paediatric trachoma.

But the famous hospital is in a desperate financial situation. It has suffered in particular from the ferocious rate of inflation in Israel. In 1976 its running costs were £289,000,

this year they are expected to be £570,000. The hospital has run through all its capital reserves and has been existing on ad hoc contributions for the past few years.

The hospital was established by the Order of St. John, and until about ten years ago was supported almost entirely by voluntary contributions from the British-based International Charity. St. John's however is no longer able to support the hospital and the onus for doing so now rests with the Arabs themselves, Sir Gawain said.

The Knights of St. John

Sir Gawain Bell is not actually -- as his name might suggest -- one of King Arthur's knights, but he is a Knight of the Order of St. John.

The order has a fairly long connection with Jerusalem. It

first went there with the crusades, and after establishing itself by force of arms, set up charitable institutions in the holy city, with special emphasis on care for the sick.

The knights were eventually pushed out of Jerusalem by the resurgent Islamic armies and retreated by degrees to Malta. There they enjoyed a fairly quiet life until Napoleon paid a visit to the island on his way to Egypt. The knights found themselves dispersed all over Europe and remained that way until Queen Victoria resuscitated the order at the end of the 19th Century.

Since then the knights have specialised in first aid and now, of course run Britain's famous St. John's Ambulance Service, which is funded entirely by voluntary contributions. But the order also found its way back to Jerusalem. This time the Knights Templar -- the warrior arm of the order -- were not invited along. But although it had given up the fight against Islam, the



An Arab mother does not hide her happiness on learning that her daughter will have the sight in her left eye restored by surgeons at St. John's.

order did not forget its ancient responsibility towards the sick. Which is why nearly a hundred years ago, the knights founded the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem.

At one time the hospital was serving people from all over

the Arab World, such was its reputation. With the rapid improvement of Arab medical facilities in the oil-producing states and the occupation of Jerusalem by Israel, that has ceased to be the case, but the hospital still serves a large number of Palestinians, many of them poor, who appreciate the fact that the hospital remains in Arab hands.

Sir Gawain Bell has been appointed by the Grand Prior of the Order as its special representative and is charged with trying to raise the money that is required to keep the hospital alive. He himself has long connections with this part of the world. He spent three years living in tents and riding camels helping to administer the Beersheba district of Palestine from 1938. Then, as an officer in the Arab Legion during World War Two, he raised and commanded the Third Mechanised, now the Princess Basma, Regiment. Since then Sir Gawain has served in the political service in Sudan, and in Kuwait

as Britain's Political Agent. He has been the Governor of Northern Nigeria and special adviser to the Sultan of Oman. He has helped to draft constitutions and mediate in oil demarcation disputes in the Middle East.

Appeal to Arab heads of state

Now he is back in Jordan again, to see his fellow Knight of the Order of St. John, His Majesty King Hussein. The King has always taken a close personal interest in the hospital and Jordan is the only country which has provided regular annual contributions to it. Sir Gawain said. Instead, approaches will be made directly to Arab Hussein's advice about how to raise the money which the hospital needs.

"You can't do fund raising for this cause in the way that you would do it in Britain -- with women's coffee mornings

and tin-rattling in the streets," Sir Gawain said. Approaches will be made directly to Arab heads of state to get them to back the hospital with government funds. The Arab mayors of the West Bank have raised considerable sums for the hospital in the past. But financing can no longer be done on an ad hoc basis. The £5 million which the order hopes to raise would be invested to provide a regular income for the hospital. Sir Gawain spoke of investing the money in a "waqf", a religious endowment, in the Arab World -- maybe in a housing bank.

The fact that the hospital is run by a Christian mission does not always make fund raising easy. But as Sir Gawain said: "The crusades are a long way away," and what has perhaps become important is that the hospital represents "an Arab service provided for Arabs. It is an Arab enclave in Jerusalem and it would surely be a pity to lose that to the Israelis."

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Semi-arid lands can be made productive for agriculture

By Lee S. Tesdell
 Photos by Dave Osborne
 Special to the Jordan Times

The 1976-1980 Five Year Plan for Jordan states that 84.6 million dunums or 91.4 per cent of the East Bank is desert. The criteria of categorisation is of course rainfall. The area receives less than 200 mm. of rain a year. Although this large amount of land area in Jordan is often written off as unfit for agriculture, except for grazing, it can be productive land if water resources are properly managed.

To see for ourselves, the Jordan Times went recently to the area northeast of Mafraq near the Syrian border.

Two types of water utilisation projects were visited. First, the microcatchment system used to raise olive trees, and second, run-off farming also primarily intended to make the raising of tree crops possible. The basic point of both the systems is to store sufficient moisture in the ground by catching in some way run-off water, to support the tree during the dry months.

The population of the area visited is about 40,000 settled Bedouin people living in small villages. One out of five heads of household, however, is employed in the Jordanian army, so that there is a considerable non-agricultural income.

The soil type is generally "loess", defined as an unstratified deposit of yellowish-brown loam. One of its characteristics, which has importance for agriculture, is that after rain it forms a hard crust. It is also quite fertile. The main drawback to its use for farming is, of course, the lack of abundant water.

The area, which receives between 100 and 250 mm. of rain annually, is known as a semi-arid zone, the transition between desert and steppe.

A scheme, therefore, which is practical for the small farmer, efficient in its capture of rain water, and easily maintained is of great use to agriculture in the region. The microcatchment system is one such method.

Poorer families

Dave Osborne of the Amman office of the Mennonite Central Committee, explained to the Jordan Times that they tried to get one or two of the microcatchment projects going with poorer families in the 40 odd villages where they provide aid.

The project itself is a four party effort involving the Mennonite Central Committee, the Mutsarrat of Mafraq District, the Mafraq Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Social Affairs.

A total of 1,500 olive tree seedlings of the Nabali variety have been planted in this winter planting season using the microcatchment system.

A total of 6,000 trees however, were distributed. Those not used for the microcatchment system were sold at a subsidised rate.

A second area of operation of the project is the Ma'an District where the emphasis is on utilising terraced hillsides for the olives and combining that with fence building as protection for the trees. About 4,000 trees were involved in the Ma'an District project.

One historically fascinating aspect of the reclamation of agricultural land is the use of ancient water systems. Both the Nabatean and Roman civilisations were highly skilled in the art of semi-arid land agriculture.

Today, ancient water reservoirs, such as the one at the village of Umm Al Jamal have been restored and are functioning. More directly connected with the current projects to plant olives in semi-arid areas, are the terracing systems which can still be seen in the area of Umm Al Jamal and also in the south of Jordan. The principle of ancient farming methods was utilisation of run-off water. It may be possible therefore, to simply rebuild terraces and dykes for modern day use.

The Jordan Times visited a microcatchment project site at the village of Al Ba'ij. The ancient Roman road leading from south of Umm Al Jamal to Bosra in present day Syria passes just to the west of Al Ba'ij. The family who were participating in the project had prepared about 25 dyke-surrounded basins of 50 sq. metres each.

Small ditches had been dug so that excess from one basin would run into the next basin. At one corner of each basin the family had dug a one sq. metre depression with a deep hole at the centre for the tree itself. Evidence of the last heavy rainfall could be seen from the water marks on the low side of the outside dyke.

Although there was now no water in the holes, residents said that water had stayed in them for a long time after the last rainfall.

At another microcatchment site there was considerable water remaining in several of the olive tree basins. The second participating family, although the man of the house was completely blind, was able to ready the 25 tree scheme in time for the winter rains, and to see the fruits of their labours already.

It is estimated that an olive tree brings about JD 5-6 per annum in revenue to the farmer in the area northeast of Mafraq. This level is reached after the tree is four to five years old, which means, as the seedlings are two years old when planted, that they must grow for at least two more years without bringing any income to the farmer.

"When producing, a dunum of olive trees is more profitable than raising grain," Mr. Osborne told the Jordan Times.

To understand the need for improvement of agricultural production and thereby income, in the northeast Mafraq area a simple statistic illustrates the point.

Short female lifespan

In this area the life span of the women is 14 years below the national average for Jordan, the reason being that the women do much of the agricultural work while the men are becoming more mobile, working in the army or other city jobs.

Simple, efficient and straightforward agricultural improvements such as utilising run-off water, are a part of the answer.

One of the most enthusiastic farmers in the area is Sheikh Saroor Rakaan in Rawdat Umm Al Jamal. His farm is located on the road to Umm Al Jamal from the Baghdad highway, and his well advanced olive trees are in stark contrast to the surrounding drab appearance of the fields. Although some of the farmers, like Sheikh Saroor, obviously put extra water on their trees, the run-off utilisation and microcatchment systems should be sufficient for raising extensive olive orchards.

Although farmers often try

to raise wheat and barley in a wet year, those crops in the long run are less economic and harder on the soil than olives.

The run-off utilisation projects which the Jordan Times visited were being used both for the cultivation of grains and trees. We saw one, just to the south of the Baghdad highway about 50 kms east of Mafraq which was holding a considerable amount of water; a ditch had been dug from the channel of a wadi nearby and a dam had been constructed nearby to store the water which collected. The aim of this approach, as Mr. Osborne explained is to throw up an earthen dam where a maximum of 50 cm. of water can collect. The engineer therefore must calculate the elevations of entrance and exit to the storage pond, usually in the range of 10 dunums, so that neither much less nor much more than 50 cm. of water will collect.

Not every seemingly suitable site has the necessary elevations to make this scheme work.

One site of 8.5 dunums we saw was accommodating olives and other trees, another had been planted to wheat. Still, the microcatchment system is more efficient in its use of water and is less expensive as the run-off system requires the hiring of a bulldozer.

In the summer of 1977 about 30 projects, either dams or dykes, were completed in 30 villages in the area.

The rapid development of all kinds of agricultural production in Jordan is a major necessity for the near future. Certainly, there is a precedent to producing large quantities of food in the semi-arid areas of Jordan; an earlier Arab civilisation, the success of the Nabateans is an example.

Today there are great advances in agriculture in Jordan, although very little in the utilisation of run-off water. Perhaps the model for what can be done is the blind man and his young children of Zumlat Al 'Afan who, despite his handicap, accomplished the building of a 25 tree microcatchment system on his land east of Mafraq.

An appeal to the World on Women's Day



Israeli soldiers beat up an Arab demonstrator in Jerusalem last year.

The Arab Women's Organisation in Jordan addresses an appeal to the World public opinion on the occasion of International Women's Day which has become the symbol of solidarity of women in the whole world in their common struggle for equality, better living, gaining of political, economic and social rights and the protection of motherhood and childhood. This day has also become a stimulant to all women to struggle against all forms of oppression, exploitation and aggression for national independence, democracy, progress and world peace.

Women in Jordan consider the continuation of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories since 1967 aggression as forming real danger to the world peace because of the threat of a new break out of fighting that will lead into destruction and misery to millions. In violation of U.N. resolutions, the Israeli authorities are still refusing to withdraw from the occupied territories and carry on criminal practices against women, children and elders against all international resolutions and conventions.

In their desperate attempt to suppress resistance in the occupied territories, the Israeli forces are following all forms and means of suppression including mass arrest, prison torture, financial penalties, collective punishment on whole towns and villages, violation of holy places, deportation, house-undermining, land confiscation to build up military settlements, racial discrimination against Arab citizens and illegal confiscations of their lands in Upper Galilee to turn them into military fortifications.

Due to the criminal and inhuman treatment of prisoners and detainees amongst whom are dozens of women, they declared, several times hunger strikes to demand the stop of torturing and ensure treatment for those who fall sick.

On this day of solidarity, we address women organisations to express their support to the just struggle of our women in the Arab occupied territories and to demand the immediate release of the prisoners. We call upon all liberty and peace-loving forces to undertake an effective role to stop the real threat in this area that endangers world peace by demanding the termination of aggression and occupation.

We call upon the U.N. Secretary General to demand and work for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the Arab occupied territories and the immediate release of all prisoners and detainees and to stop all acts of aggression on the villages in southern Lebanon. There should be a just settlement that includes the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories and insures the legal rights of the Arab Palestinian people.

For Arab Women's Organisation of Jordan
 Emily Naffa
 General Secretary

Silence is golden

In the occupied West Bank, two new Israeli settlements are being established, to be named Beit El and Nabi Saleh.

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli defence minister and finance minister threaten to resign if the settlements are established while the Israeli Prime Minister holds talks in Washington next week.

Also in Tel Aviv, the settler-heavy Gush Emunim group says it will continue trying to set up new settlements in the West Bank, and will ask for the resignation of government ministers opposed to their plans.

In Washington, the Israeli Defence Minister, Ezer Weizman, starts talks with American officials about a ten-year Israeli defence programme that is to require some \$14 billion in American military sales credit.

In several Middle East capitals, the shuttling American peace-maker, Mr. Alfred Atherton, packs his bags and heads back to Washington saying that his efforts have been useful in getting closer to a declaration of principles for a comprehensive Middle East peace.

In Israel, Premier Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan say that U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 does not require an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

In Washington, a U.S. State Department spokesman says the U.S. and Israel have different interpretations of Resolution 242.

In Moscow, a PLO delegation winds up talks there that have been preceded by similar visits of the four other anti-Sadat Arab states, Syria, Libya, Algeria and Southern Yemen.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli Premier Begin prepares for his talks in Washington next week which will focus heavily on his refusal to leave the West Bank and his insistence on creating settlements in Sinai.

About all of which, we say, there's never a dull moment in the Middle East. Nothing else we can say could possibly make sense of the above, so we won't say anything at all.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Art Exhibit

Continuing today, and on display till Sunday, an exhibition of North Korean Art is showing at the Palace of Culture, Hussein Youth City. The variety of works include portraits in silk thread, photographs, various handicrafts and books and stamps.

Film

The British Council is presenting the second showing tonight at 8:30, of the film entitled "All Creatures Great and Small." Free entry with reservation.

Children's Theatre

The Haya Arts Centre is presenting a play, based on the Arab folklore figure of Joha, every day at 4:00, running through next Friday. The play, entitled "Joha and His Donkey" is in Arabic, and should be enjoyed by children and adults alike.

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The children of a blind man who successfully completed a 25-tree microcatchment project. (Photo by Dave Osborne)

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PERSPECTIVE

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ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

In their editorials Wednesday the Jordanian newspapers echoed His Majesty King Hussein's pessimistic views on the Middle East crisis.

AL RA'I said the King, in a press conference attended by the journalists accompanying the Austrian president, clearly and openly epitomised the Middle East situation, pointing out two roads in the Arab-Israeli conflict, safety and disaster. Safety if a just peace was achieved; Disaster if Israel continued to adhere to its hard-line position.

The King, the newspaper adds, went beyond this regional clarification when he suggested that the Soviet Union should participate in solving the dispute, including the Palestine issue, if real peace was to prevail in the region.

In short, the monarch's call, aimed at polarising Arab and international effort for reaching a comprehensive solution in which all parties concerned have to take part, AL RA'I said.

In short also, the newspaper adds, the King has uncovered Israel's deception, fraud and constant strategem in absorbing any efforts being made to settle the region's crisis.

In this context, we may say that the already exerted efforts for unilateral negotiation (between Egypt and Israel) are hopelessly enmeshed, because Israel utilises these efforts, in one form or other, to fulfill its expansionist and settlement objectives at the expense of Arab lands and Arab rights.

AL DUSTOUR underlines King Hussein's call on the United States and the world to reconsider their attitude towards Israel, because, in the words of the King, "Israel which until now has not only offered nothing in the way of peace, is also laying obstacles to the peace efforts."

At the same time, Al Dustour adds, the Shah of Iran, in an interview with the Washington Post newspaper, declared that the only way to produce a change in Israel's obstinate stance, is for the United States to pressure Israel. The Shah also voiced his support to imposition of an international ban in all fields against Israel, similar to the United Nations ban against Rhodesia and South Africa.

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National News Roundup

King Hussein congratulates President Assad

AMMAN, March 8 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein today sent a cable of congratulations and good wishes to Syrian President Hafez Assad on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the Baath party assumption of power in Syria.

Sharif Fawaz opens exhibition

AMMAN, March 8 (JNA). — Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawaz Sharaf today opened the North Korean cultural exhibition which the Korean embassy is holding in cooperation with the Jordanian Culture and Department.

West Bank mayor will go on trial

AMMAN, March 8 (JNA). — The Israeli authorities are preparing to bring the trial tomorrow of the Mayor of the occupied West Bank town of Beit Jala, Mr. Bishara Daoud, on charges of incitement. The trial is the latest in a series of cases put by mayors and municipal councils of the occupied West Bank denouncing the trial, reports from the occupied territory said today. The Israelis allege that the mayor and the three council members had insulted an Israeli soldier.

Franco-Jordanian tax talks concluded

AMMAN, March 8 (JNA). — Franco-Jordanian talks on ways of avoiding double taxation were concluded here today. A final session will be held tomorrow Thursday to draft an agreement to be referred to the French and Jordanian governments for ratification.

Cultural relations with USSR, Korea reviewed

AMMAN, March 8 (JNA). — The Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawaz Sharaf received today the ambassadors of North Korea and the Soviet Union. During the meetings, they discussed cultural relations between Jordan and the two countries.

Jordan active in teacher training discussions

BEIRUT, March 8 (JNA). — Jordan is currently participating in a conference for directors of certification of in-service teachers training institutes in the Arab world. Dr. Ahmad Khatib who represents Jordan at the meetings held in Beirut said that participants are discussing a number of educational subjects including modern methods employed in the training of teachers. He told the Jordan News Agency that his delegation presented the only working paper on the subject of teachers training and it is being taken up for discussion. Attending the conference are representatives of Arab states as well as UNESCO and UNICEF.

Austria may finance some Amman municipal projects

AMMAN, March 8 (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan today visited the Municipality of Amman and met with the Mayor of Amman, Mr. Ma'n Abu Nowar, the Austrian Minister of Commerce and Industry and his accompanying delegation. The Jordanian Minister of Industry and Commerce, the minister of agriculture and senior officials of the Municipality attended the meeting. The Mayor said that the participants discussed future projects of the municipality which will be implemented within the next few years in addition to Austrian financial backing for some of those projects.

Cooperation agreement with Australia approved

AMMAN, March 8 (JNA). — The Cabinet today approved an agreement on cooperation between Jordan and Australia during a session chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran. It also decided to form a delegation headed by the Labour minister to review and programme bilateral cooperation.

Business Grapevine

By John Bonar

Alia and Concorde - rumours in the wind

The possibility of Alia participating in a joint leasing of a Concorde supersonic airliner is now being mooted around London. All the stories are emanating from the Chairman and President of Middle East Airlines, Mr. Assad Y. Nasr now in London after a flying (how else?) visit to Amman last week during which he spent two hours closeted in private session with Alia Chairman and President Mr. Ali Ghannouch.

Apparently if the scheme hatched up in Amman goes ahead, MEA probably will lease a Concorde for a daily service between the Middle East and New York. The idea is apparently based on the doubling of first class air traffic in the Middle East over the past few years largely due to the surge in development in the region financed by growing oil wealth.

Possibly up to six Arab airlines could jointly lease the supersonic jet or alternatively one or two of the airlines could operate the service jointly with British Airways or Air France. Mr. Nasr in any case favours a refueling stop at Toulouse in France.

Alia is currently operating a twice weekly service between Amman and New York under the joint flag of Alia and Syrian Arab Airlines.

British Airways is flying a twice weekly Concorde service between London and Bahrain but the sector has consistently lost money, since flights started in January 1976.

British Airways and Air France have already signed agreements with Braniff Airlines of the U.S. which will allow the American operator to fly Concorde from Washington to Dallas-Fort Worth in Texas. The U.K. and French airlines will fly Concorde superphonically across the North Atlantic to the U.S. capital where Braniff crews will take over for the flight down to Dallas.

Although it will not fly superphonically on this overland leg, Concorde will nevertheless make a substantial time saving on the route by flying 15 per cent faster than subsonic jets. Braniff is also considering the possibility of leasing a Concorde for its New York to Panama run. This could halve the present five hour journey.

Meanwhile the American airline is locked in the middle of a bureaucratic battle between the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board and the British Civil Aviation Authority over its fare structure. The wrangle is over a \$7 difference per passenger. The U.S. regulatory authority wants the low rate. The British the high rate. Braniff wants to fly its planes.

At last count the British are allowing Braniff to land but not take off for the return leg with fare paying passengers. The Americans are threatening to stop British Caledonian flying from Houston to London in retaliation.

Why, no doubt you are asking yourselves, am I so concerned over the activities of Braniff and the only two existing flights connecting U.K. with the oil rich American Southwest. Only that southwest is the key link between the U.S. and the Arab world with over half of all U.S. exports to the Middle East (excluding Israel) being shipped through Houston. It's where Arabs have interests in banks and major industrial companies dealing with the Middle East have their offices.

So? So a little bird has whispered in my ear that Braniff is interested in opening yet another route between the great southwest and London geared to onward connections to the Middle East. But Braniff is short of planes and are talking about leasing a Boeing-747 from Alia.

That would put a big jumbo in Alia colours landing daily in the main airport of the American southwest. If the deal goes, the only non-Alia aspect of the flight would be the crews, who would come from Braniff.

The deal would also mean that Alia will have to lease other planes to ply the routes now operated by the 747 that would be on long lease to the American operator.

Who said Red Sea fishing isn't viable?

Apparently some of our local policy makers (not too high on the ladder I hasten to add) believe that Jordan's fishing potential is next to nil. They consider the Red Sea lacks potential for commercial fishing operations and Jordan's fish protein needs should be met by expanding imports from Kuwait or developing an alternative source in the Sultanate of Oman where I believe the prices are more competitive.

Their dismissal of the Red Sea as a source of protein is based on the dismal failure of a United Nations Development Programme experiment of several years ago which failed to produce significant results from an operation using a converted British North Sea trawler based in Aqaba. As I understood that experiment, trawling, by its very nature of dragging a large net along the sea bed, is not suitable in the Red Sea because of the preponderance of coral reefs which, not unnaturally, tears the nets.

Rather than change the fishing methods (there are others) the trawler was sent off farther south to fish off the coast of Aden.

After the first trip it was discovered that the refrigerating equipment aboard was insufficient to preserve the fish in the broiling temperatures during the long voyage to and from the fishing ground. There was talk of replacing the refrigeration units but in any case the whole concept was inefficient because the ship spent more time travelling to and from port than actually fishing, and then the European crew wanted a spot of shore leave every time they docked in Aqaba.

To my mind the question of viability revolved around the manner of the experiment rather than the potential of the Red Sea for providing fish.

Apparently my viewpoint is shared by Ross Seafoods of Grimsby in England, from whence, if my memory serves me well, the trawler that experimented for the UNDP originally hailed from.

Ross is to undertake a survey of Sudan's Red Sea shrimp resources under an agreement signed between Sudan's Ministry of Agriculture and Britain's Ministry of Overseas Development.

Amman Stock Exchange Report

Company Name	Share Price	Volume	High	Low	Close	Open	Change
Jordan Tobacco & Paper Co.	JD 1.500	2,500	7,500	7,300	7,350	7,350	7,400
Arab Bank for Social & Economic Development	JD 1.000	200	1,200	1,250	1,250	1,250	—
Industrial, Commercial & Agricultural Bank	JD 1.000	700	2,100	2,200	2,200	2,200	—
Arab Finance & Investment Co.	JD 1.000	850	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	—
Arab Agricultural Bank	JD 1.000	1,000	8,900	8,900	8,900	8,900	—
Jerusalem Insurance Co.	JD 1.000	5,375	2,200	2,150	2,150	2,200	—
Jordan Cement Industries	JD 15.000	1,500	15,500	15,500	15,500	15,500	—
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 4.000	577	6,500	6,500	6,750	6,800	—

75 per cent of shares were sold

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UNCTAD warned that waiving Third World debt would harm poor

GENEVA, Switzerland, March 8 (AP).— The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) warned yesterday that waiving the debts of developing countries would create a dangerous precedent and eventually harm the poor nations themselves. Jacques P'huillier, Representative of the Paris-based ICC, sounded the warning in the conference to discuss the problem of the \$250 billion foreign debt of the Third World.

The developing countries in a bloc are asking that foreign debts of the poorest among them be turned into grants. The Western states have declined to cancel the debts.

Mr. P'huillier said general renunciation of debt repayment would create "a precedent that would risk weakening the trust that must exist between lender and borrower." He said it would seem to put into question the developing countries' financial responsibility.

As a result, he said, waiving debts might make it much more difficult for countries to obtain access to capital markets although by their management and the structure of their indebtedness they might feel entitled to it.

Mr. P'huillier said general debt waiving by the industrial states might dissuade private businesses from investing in

countries that need the capital. And since it would mean a transfer of considerable resources to the developing countries, it might also have the effect of stopping the flow of official financial assistance at liberal conditions, he claimed. "We believe that such a measure (of general full debt relief) would in fact be prejudicial to the developing countries themselves," Mr. P'huillier told the meeting of the board of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

There was no immediate reaction to his speech, which contrasted with the diplomatically-worded statements by government delegates.

Ambassador Stephane Hessel of France, speaking for industrialised nations, said the developed states feel the poorer nations' debt problem is

"neither generalised nor unmanageable" and the existing international aid and repayment system is working. "The real problem with which many developing countries are confronted is a resource transfer problem and not a generalised problem of indebtedness," he said.

Beirut to begin renovation of commercial centre

BEIRUT, March 8 (R). — Work on a 500 million Lebanese pounds (\$170 million) project to rebuild the devastated commercial centre of Beirut will begin on April 1, Public Works Minister Amin Bizri said.

The centre trading district was reduced to heaps of rubble during the 1975-76 civil war.

Mr. Bizri told reporters the government has also appropriated 425 million Lebanese pounds to renovate and develop Beirut International Airport.

Saudi Arabia was the prime source of finance for the projects, he said.

Mediators conduct inquiry into court order to force striking U.S. coal miners back to work

WASHINGTON, March 8 (R). — Three mediators appointed by President Carter today consider whether the government can go ahead with a swift court injunction to force America's striking coal miners back to work.

They will have to decide whether the strike now in its 93rd day, threatens America's health or safety. They will interview representatives of industry and labour and report to the president probably within 24 hours.

The mediators' inquiry is the result of machinery set in motion by Mr. Carter to end the country's longest coal strike. The president has invoked the Taft-Hartley Act to send the miners back to work for an 80-day cooling off period.

Throughout the United States, spokesmen for coal mines said they were prepared to reopen the mines after a court issues an injunction under the Taft-Hartley law, which would order striking miners back to work for an 80-day cooling-off period. They said they could

have coal flowing a few days after the mines start up.

Governors in the United States coal country have vowed to keep the peace if mines reopen under a White House order. Some, hoping miners would obey the order, would not reveal their plans. Others warned of using the national guard.

Virginia Governor John Dalton declared a state of emergency. Mr. Dalton said he had sent extra state policemen into coal-mining areas, and added that he would use hundreds of national guard troops, if necessary, to prevent coal-field violence.

Miners still angry

Meanwhile, there were indications that many miners remained angry -- and ready to hold out.

One group kept a vigil over a coal train they had surrounded Monday night in Tuscola, Illinois, blocking its passage.

The United Auto Workers announced in Washington that

it will contribute \$2 million to a relief fund to help the families of striking coal miners and pensioners.

Militants have declared they will not be forced back to work under a contract that expired on Dec. 6.

The two previous times the government used the Taft-Hartley Act, in 1948 and 1949, they ignored it.

Last weekend the members of the United Mine Workers Union (UMW) rejected a new contract that provides a 37 per cent pay rise over three years but withdraws the free medical care they had previously and curbs the right to strike without union approval. If they now defy the Taft-Hartley Act the government could seek to jail union leaders and to fine the union for contempt of court.

Meanwhile the Agriculture Department has said it might stop strikers' food stamps, the cut-price food vouchers that many miners used to stretch their money over the last three months.

Energy demand will increase 4 to 6 times in developing nations by 2000, says Waldheim

VIENNA, March 8 (R). — Developing countries will increase their demand for energy four to six times by the year 2000, United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said today.

In a written statement read at the start of a U.N. sponsored symposium on the world's oil industry, Mr. Waldheim predicted oil and gas would have to meet the bulk of the increased demand.

More than 150 senior officials from nationalised oil industries and government ministries in ten countries are attending the week-long seminar to exchange views on helping developing nations build up their own oil industries.

Mr. Waldheim said the meeting demonstrated "the catalytic role which the United Nations could play in fostering cooperation in this area of crucial importance to the world economy."

Referring to U.N. figures he said the number of developing countries which have established their own state-owned petroleum industries has increased 60 per cent since the 1973 oil crisis.

OPEC Secretary General Ali Jaidah is scheduled to address the U.N. symposium here today, while senior OPEC oil industry officials will deliver keynote speeches during the week.

Ralph Nader suggests U.S. make renewable energy top priority

WASHINGTON, March 8 (AP). — Consumer advocate Ralph Nader, critical of continued development of nuclear power, said yesterday that President Jimmy Carter should make the development of solar and other "renewable" energy resources a top U.S. priority.

Mr. Nader urged this policy at a news conference where he drew attention to a preliminary study prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy, which suggests that the State

of California -- subject of the study -- could rely almost entirely on renewable energy and get along without oil, natural gas, coal and nuclear power by the year 2025.

Mr. Nader concluded only that conservation, and solar, hydroelectric, wind, and geothermal energy, plus synthetic fuels from biological materials, could support a California population twice its present size and at far higher economic levels by the year 2025, from a technical standpoint.

The leaning tower of Pisa has gone too far

By Norris Willatt

PISA, (I.T.) — If the Leaning Tower of Pisa didn't lean, people wouldn't go to see it. But there are degrees of leaning; and for some years now, experts have been worried that one day it may lean too far and topple right over. So a committee of them have decided to do something about it.

Specifically, the International Committee for the Work of Consolidation, on which sit prominent geologists, geophysicists, palaeontologists, archaeologists, mechanical, structural and other engineers, at a gathering in Pisa have come up with a three-stage programme to prevent the tower from leaning any further.

Proposals

Among the proposals put forward were measures to stabilise the shifting subsoil upon which the tower's foundations were constructed; the construction of a metal scaffolding around the structure, which could hold it firm; and, if necessary, the attachment of counter-weights to that side of the tower opposite to the lean.

This concrete blueprint is the outcome of a lengthy debate over the appropriate steps to be taken, based on an analysis of the problem by the same committee over the period between 1965 and 1970. Measurements taken with ultra-sensitive, highly accurate modern instruments revealed that the degree of inclination had reached a worrying stage. At that point, it was discovered that the world famed tower, which with the equally beautiful cathedral and baptistery decorate the appropriately named Piazza dei Miracoli (The Place of the Miracles) on the Pisa greensward, was jutting out at the summit about five metres beyond its base and that the rate of inclination was increasing by a millimetre (one thousandth part of a metre) a year. One year, that one millimetre may become the equivalent of the straw which broke the camel's back.

Cause established

The committee of experts also confirmed the cause of the incredible lean. The Tower of Pisa is built on the site of a former lagoon, which "has left its imprint in the muddy slurry (about 40 to 50 per cent water) beneath the top soil of sand, lime and clay in which the foundations are anchored. On this slippery sub-surface, the 58-metre (188.5

feet) high, 14,500-ton tower is slowly canting over.

This was no blindingly new discovery. The tower has been leaning for over 600 years, ever since the first of its circular stories were built by the Pisans under the direction of the architect Bonanno, starting in 1173. He soon discovered the treacherous nature of the subsoil, and so quickly abandoned the work unfinished.

But others responded to the challenge, adding the upper stories. Notably, Giovanni de Simone, starting in 1275, and Tommaso Pisano, from 1350 on, who finished the tower proper and topped it with a belfry. They sought to correct the effect of inclination by increasing the weight of the stonework on the side against the lean, so as to restore the perpendicular. The effect is visible to the naked eye today.

Computer predicts doom

For centuries after that, as

It's all very well for the leaning tower of Pisa to lean, but there are limits. A panel of experts has decided that it has gone far enough. They have produced a three-stage plan to stop the famous tower leaning to a fatal degree -- including a temporary scaffolding which it can lean up against if it gets too tired during the operations.

the tower continued to defy gravity and people came from all over the world to marvel at the phenomenon, nobody worried about the lean. Concern in more recent times is largely due to the more accurate measurements made possible by the use of sophisticated modern instruments.

A projection of the data they provide, using computers, indicates that, if not tomorrow, some time possibly before the end of the present century the leaning tower might tumble right down. That is what the International Com-

Recommended action

The first and basic remedial measure recommended is action to stabilise the subsoil below the foundations, which is affected by variations in the pressure of its water content, such as seasonal factors. The proposal is to sink two master wells and six other smaller wells in a circle around the tower, through which water

can be extracted or re-injected to maintain constant pressure. The whole process would be controlled automatically.

Stage two calls for the building of a metal scaffolding around the tower which could act as a brace. It would not actually touch the stonework, but it would form, as it were, a protective skirt against which the tower could lean in an emergency. This would be only a temporary expedient until the subsoil had been stabilised. Tourists would hope so, as the charm of the tower would be much diminished by having to view it through an iron trellis.

If these measures either alone or in combination should prove ineffective, then a third alternative safeguard is recommended, in the form of physical supports for the foundations themselves. These could be provided in a variety of ways. One method would be to drive a close network of

piles into the ground, following the example of the bold pioneers of Venice who constructed a whole city, in a much deeper lagoon, on this kind of foundation.

Another alternative would be to inject plastic or some other kind of consolidating agent into the mud, which would reduce the viscosity. This solution has been compared to launching the tower on a raft. A third possibility would be to attach stone or other kinds of weights to the side opposite to the lean, and then anchor them to the ground -- giving the effect of a kind of reverse flying buttress.

The experts are satisfied that at this blueprint should be sufficient to keep the tower in place for as long a time ahead as they can see; and resort will not be necessary to such more drastic proposals as keeping the subsoil permanently frozen; removing the timbers of the structure, and leaving just the visual outer shell; even taking down the tower and rebuilding elsewhere.

Pisa must hope they are right. Without their Leaning Tower, the people of the community would be much the poorer by losing all those hundreds of thousands of visitors who come to gawk at their unique tourist attraction year by year -- and the money they spend in hotels, restaurants and at the booths which sell miniature replicas of the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

-- Financial Times News-Features

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Jordanian Dhs	Buying/Selling
U.S. dollar	309.00/311.00
U.K. sterling	599.00/603.00
W. German mark	153.20/154.10
Swiss franc	163.20/164.70
French franc	64.50/64.90
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.20/36.40
Japanese yen (for every 100)	131.20/132.00
Dutch guilder	143.10/143.90
Belgian franc (for every 100)	98.30/98.90
Swedish crown	67.50/67.90

People in the News

Israel entitles hookers to national insurance

TEL AVIV, (AP). — Israeli hookers should be happy. They have been recognised as a legal profession entitling them to national insurance which includes child allowances and pregnancy pay. The decision followed a first-ever application by a prostitute to the National Insurance Institute, said Mordechai Cohen, the institute's financial manager. "I don't know why everyone is surprised," Mr. Cohen told a reporter. "After all, by law we have to insure all professions, and this is the oldest profession of all." He said Israeli law forbids soliciting, pimping and brothel-keeping, but not the act of sex itself for money.

Suspect arrested in Flynt shooting

NORFOLK, Virginia (AP). — A young man arrested in the back of a local tavern was being held today on a Georgia fugitive warrant that named him in the attempted murder of pornography king Larry Flynt. As Mr. Flynt lay in critical condition with a bullet near his spine in a Lawrenceville, Georgia, hospital last night, a police teletype here punched out a message from Georgia authorities: Arrested. Teddy Morris, Mr. Morris, described as a short man in his 30's, was being held by Georgia police. Mr. Morris will also have to undergo extradition proceedings.

Spinks had rib injury before Ali fight

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, (R). — Two Las Vegas doctors have said that Leon Spinks suffered from a rib injury shortly before last month's heavyweight fight in which he won the world title from Muhammad Ali. Dr. Abraham Rudnick and Dr. Jo Payne said yesterday they gave Spinks a local anesthetic just before the 15-round fight, which he won on a split decision. Spinks has been advised not to fight again for two months to let the damage heal. The two doctors said they examined Spinks several days before the fight here on Feb. 15 and found that he had cartilage damage on the lower part of his left rib cage.

Yigal Allon takes factory job

TEL AVIV, (R). — Israel's former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, determined to retain his worker image, is now soldering electronic parts in a factory. He operates a soldering machine at an electronics plant in the settlement at Ginosar, the kibbutz said yesterday. The factory makes pain-controlling, transistor-sized nerve stimulators developed at a Jerusalem medical centre.

Scientists file suit for cloning

NEW YORK, (AP). — Worried about the possibility of production-line cloning of humans, three scientists said yesterday that they will sue to find out what the U.S. government has done in genetic engineering. The suit was prompted by a forthcoming book, In His Image: Cloning of a Man, by science writer David Rorvik, which claims that a boy, now 14 months old, was created from a cell of an unidentified wealthy, unmarried man. "If it hasn't been done already, it will certainly be accomplished within the next 10 years," said Jeremy Rifkin, a co-plaintiff in the planned lawsuit. "This technique should be outlawed. It's anti-social." Cloning involves the introduction of a single cell into a female egg cell from which the nucleus has been removed. The hybrid egg then is implanted into a female uterus where, according to theory, it develops into a human fetus and has only the characteristics of the cell donor.

Dollar falls to new post-war low in Japan

TOKYO, March 8 (R). — The U.S. dollar fell to a post-war record low of 235.00 yen on the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market today.

The previous low of 235.06 yen was recorded two days ago. Market operators seemed to have turned their attention away from the Swiss franc and West German mark -- against which the dollar has fallen recently -- because they now feel the yen is undervalued against the dollar compared with those.

Following a pledge of support for the U.S. currency, Japanese Central Bank Governor Toshihiko Moriguchi said the rise of the yen against the dollar threatened Japanese export industries.

He said Japan must reduce its massive trading surplus with other countries, to halt the yen's rise, but meanwhile the central bank was ready to intervene strongly to prevent erratic fluctuations.

Dealers in London said the market appeared to be putting the bank governor's statement to the test.

Trading became extremely hectic at times, with the dollar dipping below 233 yen briefly before recovering.

As an indication of lowering of confidence in paper money, the price of gold gained \$1.55 to be set at \$188.90 an ounce on the London Bullion Market.

The underlying cause of the dollar's fall against major currencies in recent months has been fear over the American economy which has a huge trade deficit.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Not received

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Stock prices closed firmer Wednesday in quiet trading following Bank of England's statistics Tuesday which indicated a possible slowing in U.K. money supply growth, dealers said.

At 15:00 hrs the F.T. index was up 3.4 at 447.5. Government bonds rose by up to 5/8 in thin and nervous trading, dealers said.

Equities showed modest net gains. Sentiment was defined at mid-session by a discouraging ICI annual report, dealers said. Gold shares rose in line with the sharply higher bullion price while U.S. and Canadian shares eased where changed.

ICI closed 3p lower at 335-1/2p following its annual report after rising to 342p initially. Bescam fell by 5p to 589-1/2p while other leading industrials rose by up to 6p. Oil shares closed firmer. Royal Dutch Petroleum rose 1/8 to 483/8 stg. ahead of its results, due tomorrow. Bank shares erased opening gains to close narrowly mixed.

Woolworth rose by 5p to 68p. The company today reported higher 1977 pre-tax profits.

Price of gold closed in London Wednesday at \$189.00/00

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1978

Our **DAILY HOROSCOPE**

by the CARROLL RIGTER INSTITUTE

RIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get into the small details of your work you have to do and it is soon completed and you gain benefits that have accrued. Look into something new, profitable, also.

AURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Plan time for visiting with friends and much good can come of this now. Entertainment is not good right now. Be more concerned with adding to your savings account.

EMINT (May 21 to June 21) Handle tasks that require immediate attention. Take care you do nothing to jeopardize your good name. Show that you are a good person, too.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Concentrate on new friendships which can bring you pleasure and profit in the future. Not a good time for making radical changes. Avoid unnecessary travel.

GO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Making small changes can improve your position in life. Be sure you do not neglect very necessary duties, also. Strive for more harmony in your life.

ARGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Try to please associates the way and gain their added goodwill. Not a good time to talk over vital matters, though. Take initial steps to reconcile with good friends with whom you have argued.

BRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get home and office in better working order and enjoy greater comfort, efficiency, and harmony with family and co-workers. Don't overtax energy, though in the process.

ORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get together with persons who enjoy the same type of recreation that you like and have a good time. Don't gamble with money foolishly. Handle important business matters.

GITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Take care of small matters without griping. Entertain close ties and be happy. Keep expenses down.

APRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Use much care in driving. Treat friends with kid gloves and you come to a better understanding. Shop early, stay within your budget.

QUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Take care of your estate bookkeeping chores and be sure to keep books neatly. Don't dig into reserves for foolish investment.

SCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your big plans are difficult to work on now but you can handle minor ones with much ease. Take time to improve health, good looks.

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MUTT & JEFF



THE FLINTSTONES

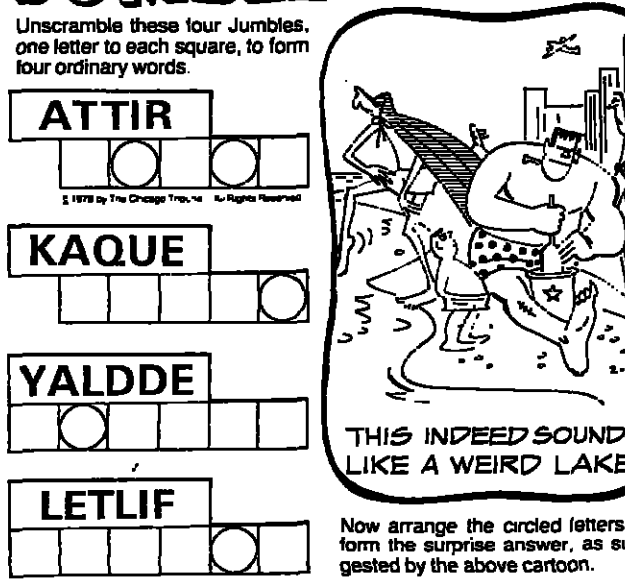


THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes



"Be thankful for small favors, Mother. At least he tipped his beer can in your direction."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

GORED BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ 1043
♥ 9865
♦ A93
♣ AQ10

EAST
♠ 8762
♥ 1072
♦ KQJ852
♣ KJ9

SOUTH
♠ KJ95
♥ AKQJ4
♦ 752

The bidding:
West North East South
1 Pass Pass Dble...
2 2NT Pass 3
Pass 4 Pass Pass
Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.

The song of the Lorelei exerted no stronger attraction on the mariners of yore than does a finesse on the average player. Consider this hand.

North-South bid well to reach an excellent game contract despite an adverse opening bid. Unfortunately, declarer's playing skill was not quite up to his bidding.

West led the king of diamonds, taken by dummy's ace. Trumps were drawn in three rounds and declarer led a club to the queen. East won the king and returned a diamond, declarer ruffing high.

South now tried a finesse of the ten of clubs. Unfortunately, East held the jack as well. He won and exited with a diamond. Declarer now lost control of the hand. In the end, he had to concede two spades and a diamond for down two.

Declarer was so blinded by the finesses available that he lost sight of his principal objective—making ten tricks. They were there for the taking if declarer simply forgot all about finessing and went about setting up his spade suit.

After drawing trumps, declarer should simply lead a low spade to the ten. He does not mind if East wins the trick, for East then cannot attack clubs. As the cards lie, West wins the queen of spades and his best defense is to shift to a club. Declarer finesses the queen and East wins the king, but once again East cannot afford to continue the attack on clubs.

Assume East returns a diamond—as good a defense as any. Declarer ruffs and continues with the king of spades. West can win and play another club, but declarer is in charge. He rises with the ace of clubs and cashes two spades, discarding dummy's remaining club. He then scores the last two tricks on a crossruff to make his contract.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- Oriental nurse
 - Lively children
 - Vindictive
 - Site of ancient Olympics
 - Louse egg
 - Ohio college town
 - Succinct
 - Size of coal
 - Used to express uncertainty
 - King of Bashan
 - Christmas
 - Talk
 - Gnome
 - Shoemaker's
 - Sip
 - Black or green
 - Chew
 - Candlenut
 - Laughing
 - Wild or
 - Past tense ending
 - Radio band
 - Flax fiber
 - Was carried
 - Exhaust
 - Greek letter
 - Steeps
 - Very loud
 - Weird
 - Spirit lamp

DOWN

- Sharif
- Billiard shot
- Indian madder
- Biddy
- Large handbags
- Adjective termination
- Parrot
- Affection
- Blak and barren
- Notable person
- Jacket
- Sanctioned
- Walk on the moon
- Imitate
- Sheep
- Earned run average
- Heavy swell
- Ballad
- House pest
- Check
- Grape and orange
- Civet
- Rich cake
- Moslem sacred book
- What person
- Rockfish
- By means of
- Copper, for example
- Nickel symbol
- That thing



Par time 20 minutes AP Newsfeatures 3/2

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6:
6:00 Quran
6:15 Cartoons
6:30 Little house on the prairie
8:00 News in Arabic
8:10 News in Arabic
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Salisbury agreement w threatens U.S.-U.K. d clash at U.N. debate

UNITED NATIONS, March 8 (Agencies). — A serious rift appears to have developed between the United States and Britain over the new Rhodesian agreement reached, between Prime Minister Ian Smith and three black leaders, in Salisbury last week. Their difference is threatening to break into the open in the United Nations Security Council, which is considering an African demand for rejection of the Salisbury agreement.

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An official of U.S. President Jimmy Carter's administration yesterday brushed aside suggestions that the United States might veto the African demand if it came to a vote. "We've worked for years to get on the right side in Africa, and the African resolution isn't worth undoing all that."

British diplomats, however, have said the African position is unacceptable to Britain, still technically the colonial authority over Rhodesia. British diplomats have called the Salisbury agreement "a significant step towards majority rule."

The leaders of black nationalist guerrillas fighting Prime Minister Smith's internal settlement were likely to address the U.N. Security Council today.

Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mugabe, linked in the Patriotic Front alliance, also scheduled a press conference before the council debate on Rhodesia resumed.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, one of the three black leaders who

signed the accord with Mr. Smith, said last night he wanted to take part in the debate. But his request could run into opposition since the majority of U.N. members regard the Salisbury settlement as a sell-out.

The debate was taking place in the shadow of Rhodesia's biggest raid yet on neighbouring Zambia. The Rhodesians said yesterday they killed 38 guerrillas in an attack launched to "pre-empt a large-scale incursion" by Mr. Nkomo's forces. Mr. Nkomo described the raid as flagrant aggression and pledged revenge on Mr. Smith's regime.

A Zambian government communiqué yesterday claimed six Rhodesian planes had been shot down. But today officials adamantly refused any comment, even to questions whether the battle was continuing. The communiqué reaffirmed Zambia's support for the Patriotic Front, however.

The Rhodesian attack was strongly condemned by Unit-

ed Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, while the United States and Britain said they deplored the use of violence in or around Rhodesia. Bishop Muzorewa was in Washington today for a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Mr. Vance was later due to meet British Foreign Secretary David Owen to discuss the U.S.-British differences over Rhodesia.

Compromise at Belgrade

BELGRADE, March 8 (R). — The marathon European security conference ended a five-day wrangle over Mediterranean security today and approved a closing statement. The 35-nation conference, already three weeks late in finishing, swiftly accepted a Maltese compromise proposal to delay a controversial debate on Mediterranean security problems until November 1980. The decision disposed of the last issue holding up the Belgrade meeting, which has been in session for 27 weeks during the past nine months.

The inquest, held in Pretoria

S. Africa police accused of Biko's death

WASHINGTON, March 8 (R). — One of the two international observers at the inquest into the death of black South African leader Steve Biko alleged today that he was killed by the South African police.

Mr. Louis Pollak, Dean of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, said in a 32-page report that Mr. Biko died as a result of brain injuries inflicted on him by one or more members of the police.

The inquest, held in Pretoria

A princess for chief delegate



Iranian officials look on as Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak Chavanon (right) greets Princess Ashraf Pahlavi of Iran at the opening of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok on Tuesday. Princess Ashraf led her country's delegation at the opening session. (AP wirephoto)

Giscard warns of leftist win

PARIS, March 8 (AP). — President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing warned yesterday that leftist platforms for next week's crucial election would undercut the French economy, spurring inflation and weakening the franc.

The president's statement marked his third direct intervention in the tough campaign leading to legislative elections

in which opinion polls have consistently given the left an edge over his ruling centre-right coalition. It was an apparent reflection of presidential concern over the continuing popularity of Socialist and Communist Party candidates, despite their open quarrelling over what to do if they win power.

M. Giscard d'Estaing's own

mandate, which runs until 1981, is not at stake. But loss of the centre-right majority underpinning his government would force him to name a leftist premier and work with leftist platforms calling for wide nationalisation of industry and the naming of Communist ministers.

"The French economy is fragile," the president told leaders of regional economic and social committees huddled at his Elysee Palace. "I have the duty to tell you about it. It would not stand up for long, neither in its prices nor in its currency."

The president made a clearly political speech on Jan. 27 in which he warned he would be unable to stop a leftist government from carrying out its nationalisation programme. On the eve of the official campaign last month, he called on Frenchmen to exercise common sense in what was interpreted as a similar appeal to reject leftist promises.

Chinese constitution strengthens parliament over Communist Party

PEKING, March 8 (R). — China last night published a new constitution strengthening the rights of its citizens to speak out and increasing the powers of parliament in relation to the Communist Party. The constitution, approved by the Fifth National People's Congress yesterday, is based largely on the 1954 constitution, China's first as a communist state, but gives back to citizens many rights since dropped. For instance, the right to defence in a trial is now restored and any person can lodge complaints against government workers. At the same time the country's ethnic minorities are given back their rights to "preserve or reform their own customs and ways." Like its predecessors, the constitution stresses that all power in China belongs to the people. However, it deletes a reference in the earlier documents that workers, peasants and soldiers are the main body of this power. The new constitution also appeared to strengthen the National People's Congress, the nation's parliament, when it said the congress was the highest organ of state power -- deleting the earlier words "under the leadership of the Communist Party of China."

Begin meets Carter next week to discuss these disagreements

By Ralph Harris

WASHINGTON, March 8 (R). — President Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin will meet here next week against a backdrop of major disagreements over steps needed for a settlement in the Middle East.

Mr. Carter's criticisms of key aspects of Israeli policy, coupled with a proposal to sell jet fighters to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, have been greeted with expressions of deep alarm in Israel despite a continuing U.S. commitment to its security.

Mr. Begin also faces a shift of American public opinion away from Israel, apparently as the result of a highly successful visit Egyptian President Anwar Sadat made to Washington a month ago.

President Sadat, whom Mr. Carter called the world's foremost peacemaker because of his dramatic trip to Israel in November, impressed many Americans with his case that Israeli intransigence had led to a stalemate in peace talks.

A Gallup Poll conducted for Newsweek magazine late last month after Mr. Sadat's trip said there were signs that

support for Israel in the United States had begun to waver.

Begin's task in U.S.

It reported that only 33 per cent of the those questioned said their sympathies were basically with Israel, compared with 46 per cent last October. Mr. Sadat's Washington triumph leaves Mr. Begin with what diplomats believe is a difficult task of convincing Americans that his stubbornness is something more than protection for Israel's security interests.

The prime minister's talks with President Carter on March 14 and 15 are being preceded here this week by meetings between his Defence Minister, Mr. Ezer Weizman, and U.S. officials.

Though considered to be more flexible than Mr. Begin, the defence minister left Israel with the reported intention of resisting proposed sales of jet fighters to Egypt and Saudi Arabia as well as any pressure for Israeli political concessions at this time. The future of the occupied

West Bank and Israeli settlements there and in the Sinai are the outstanding problems blocking conclusion of a "declaration on principles" for a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement.

Palestinian issue

When he visited Washington in mid-December, Mr. Begin offered self-rule to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip but rejected President Sadat's demand for self-determination for the Palestinians.

An Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory in return for peace and secure and recognised boundaries is called for in United Nations Resolution 242, which President Carter stressed at a press conference last week.

Mr. Carter has not supported Arab demands for a withdrawal from "all" occupied territories, but the White House said at the conclusion of his talks with President Sadat that it should take another look at the issue of Israeli settlements established on "all fronts" of the 1967 Middle East war. These include set-

tlements in occupied territory and Israeli insistence on maintaining some of them and some airfields in Sinai even after a withdrawal there.

Carter vs. settlements

President Carter has described the Jewish settlements as a violation of International Law and an obstacle to peace, virtually guaranteeing difficult talks with Mr. Begin next week.

The president also shows no disposition to change his plan to sell 50 F-15 fighters to Egypt -- the first American weapons for that country for a quarter of a century, since the days of King Farouk -- and 60 advanced F-16s to Saudi Arabia.

The proposed sales, linked with a proposal to sell Israel 15 F-15s and 75 F-16s, about half the number of combat planes it sought, are being attacked by Israel's supporters in Congress.

But Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said recently that the entire package would be dismantled if Congress refused to approve all its elements.

Somalis lose Jijiga

NAIROBI, March 8 (R). — Somali guerrillas have withdrawn from the strategic Ogaden Desert town of Jijiga in the face of a tank and air assault, Radio Somalia said tonight.

The radio, monitored here, quoted a Western Somalia Liberation Front (WSLF) statement saying its forces had made a strategic withdrawal and moved to surrounding areas.

Ethiopia claimed to have recaptured the town on Sunday but the WSLF said the assault, which it said was backed by Soviet and Cuban forces, had been repulsed.

The first Somali battlefield communiqué since Sunday said Ethiopia was ferrying more tanks and troops into the war zone by helicopter, but "freedom fighters" of the Western Somalia Liberation Front were "resisting courageously."

"This is the major battle of the war," one foreign military observer said. "If the Somalis lose Jijiga, they may lose the war."

The recapture of the tiny eastern Ethiopian town is the first major gain in the Ethiopian counter-offensive.

It will give a psychological boost to the Ethiopians, who lost the former tank and radar base last September when their troops broke and ran after a mutiny in their ranks.

Military observers said the Ethiopian victory might mean that a significant part of the Somali forces are trapped in the rugged mountains of east-

ern Ethiopia without any

Shah is worried
In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation screened in television in London last night, the Shah of Iran said he was worried about developments in the Horn of Africa "especially if one looks at the future consequences of the unchecked Cuban intervention."

Another baron kidnapped

ANTWERP, March 8 (R). — Baron Charles Bracht, prominent Belgian businessman, was kidnapped here today, police reported.

Police said he was taken from the parking lot of his law firm, called Bracht & Bracht. The baron's car was found on the parking lot after he failed to appear at his law firm yesterday morning. He is the honorary consul general in Antwerp. On Jan. 21, Edward Empain, one of Belgium's richest industrialists, was kidnapped in Paris.

He was kidnapped in Paris, a well-known, armed man, who threatened to ransom him and go on.

Gunman candidate objects to Guatemalan vote count

GUATEMALA CITY, March 8 (R). — A gunning march Electoral Tribunal offices has done nothing to speed up the counting in Guatemala's chaotic general election. Rival clans declared themselves the winners yesterday but the Electoral Tribunal, which has the job of counting the said final results might not be declared until tomorrow. One of the leading candidates, Enrique Paraita Azurdia, marched with about 250 gun supporters to the Tribunal offices yesterday and complete vote rigging.

World News Briefs

Sadat, Begin consider another meeting?

TEL AVIV, March 8 (Agencies). — Egyptian President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin are considering meeting again in the near future, the Israeli Radio correspondent reported last night. The report said that the of a meeting appeared in messages the two leaders exchanged last week.

Ceausescu purges Romanian Communist Party

VIENNA, March 8 (R). — President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania last night announced a sweeping purge in the Communist Party and government ranks, describing the move as an attempt to speed up his austerity programme of economic reform. Official Agapres news agency published a presidential decree releasing seven ministers and four of the ten secretaries of party's ruling Central Committee from their jobs.

Israel wants to sell Kfir jets to Taiwan

TEL AVIV, March 8 (AP). — Israel is seeking U.S. permission to sell Taiwan 50 of its Kfir fighter-bombers, Israeli Radio said today. Defence Minister Ezer Weizman will raise the issue with U.S. administration heads in Washington next week, radio reported from New York. A Defence Ministry spokesman declined the comment.

Zairese trial for 91 alleged plotters

KINSHASA, March 8 (R). — Ninety-one people, including Zairese military officers, go on trial here today on charges plotting to overthrow President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Europeans do not blame Cyprus for Larnaca

PARIS, March 8 (R). — A group of European parliamentarians said yesterday Cyprus could not be held responsible for the deadly events at the island's Larnaca Airport last month when Egyptian commandos were killed.

Forge-proof passports for Kuwaitis

KUWAIT, March 8 (R). — From next month Kuwaitis will obtain new forge-proof passports following reports of the two gunmen who killed Egyptian journalist Youssef Nicosia last month was holding a Kuwaiti passport. Interior Ministry said here yesterday.

Tongsun Park denies bribes' involvement

WASHINGTON, March 8 (R). — South Korean millionaire Tongsun Park denied yesterday that he had been involved in the bribery case in the U.S. Congress. Mr. Park was in reporters following his fifth day of testimony behind closed doors to investigators probing allegations of South Korean bribery in Congress.

Mississippi chemical blast injures 4

VICKSBURG, Mississippi March 8 (AP). — Four workers injured when an explosion ripped open an insecticide chemical company here yesterday, sending flames and smoke into the sky and forcing the evacuation of about 1,200 people from the area, including hundreds of school children.

Welcoming Tito, Carter warns USSR to stay out of Yugoslavia

WASHINGTON, March 8 (R). — President Carter delivered a thinly-veiled warning to the Soviet Union to stay out of Yugoslavia when he welcomed president Tito to the White House. Marshal Tito, the first Communist leader to visit Washington since Mr. Carter took office nearly 14 months ago, was hailed yesterday as a true friend of the United States. Mr. Carter said: "The independence and integrity of Yugoslavia are one of the basic foundations of world peace now and in the future." A White House spokesman later told reporters: "We have a commitment to support Yugoslavia's independence and integrity."

Chairman Hua Kuo-feng emerges as China's new "Great Helmsman"

By John Roderick

TOKYO (AP). — With the conclusion of its Fifth National People's Congress, China has passed a major milestone on the rocky road to stability and industrial advance 16 months after the trauma created by the death of Mao Tse-tung.

By retaining the premiership Communist Party Chairman Hua Kuo-feng -- the man no one would have voted most likely to succeed two years ago -- emerged from the week-long session on Sunday as the "Great Helmsman's" undisputed successor, not only in name but in fact.

In doing so he has shored up his shaky power base within the coalition of soldiers, secret policemen and old revolutionaries in power since the critical days of September-October 1976 when Mao died and the party's radicals, led by Mao's widow, Chiang Ching, were arrested and silenced.

The balance of Teng

The military-old guard group's candidate for the premiership was hard-headed, plain-speaking Senior Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping, 73. Though he failed for the second time in a turbulent career to reach the top, the remaining two top governmental jobs went to his faction. Marshal Yen Chien-ying, 81, became chairman of the congress' Standing Committee, relinquishing the Ministry of Defence to another Teng supporter, Marshal Hu Hsiang-chien, 76.

Chairman Hua's success is not only real but symbolic. For he not only wears the mantle of Mao, China's great revolutionary, but also that of the late Premier Chou En-lai. Though the congress ended in the name of Mao it was, in fact, the embodiment of the ideas of China's only previous premier, whose 50th birthday touched off national celebrations as the congress closed.

Chou's last act

It was Chou, then gripped by his fatal last illness, who kicked off the bold, new re-

at industrial leap forward upon which the world's most populous nation is now engaged. He did so in his last major address, to the previous congress, in January 1973. Strained by the obstruction of the radicals, it got going again after Mr. Hua assumed the chairmanship less than a year-and-a-half ago.

Shrewd and amiable, but lacking the authority and prestige of Mao and the demonic driving force of Mr. Teng, Chairman Hua slowly but carefully laboured to win the confidence of the moderates who had chosen him chairman because they found no alternative.

Once elected, he was safe in the nation's highest office. But the premiership, which an old and suspicious Mao had wrenched from Mr. Teng, was up for grabs.

Secret battle

The battle was won, not on the floor of the congress, but in the party Central Committee meeting which preceded it, where, in ways not disclosed, he persuaded all elements he was the man they wanted.

What undoubtedly weighed in his favour was his willingness to abandon the radicals with whom he had earlier flirted, and accept the Chou En-lai line to which the moderates had committed China. He went the distance, presiding over the dismantling of the nation-wide radical apparatus, approving the rehabilitation of hundreds of their victims and giving his assent to the moderate reforms which have turned China from a closed, inward-looking society into one with greater freedom, wider horizons and increased discipline.

Modernisation programme

Through a series of national conferences, he set the stage for concerted advances in agriculture, industry, national defence, science and technology -- all scheduled for modernisation by the year 2000. The congress put its seal of approval on all these measures. It adopted a new, apparently more liberal constitution, shook up areas of government intimately involved in